



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

or because they were received too soon or too late. It is worth considering if it might not be advisable to devise a carefully indexed filing system for use by every patron of the extension library you are planning to develop. An index to Farmers' Bulletins or other publications is a good thing; but if most of the publications have been mislaid because of the lack of a filing device, the index will large-

ly fail of its purpose. If a few librarians of an inventive turn of mind will work out systems of classifying and filing bulletins, leaflets, and newspaper clippings, and then have a simple and inexpensive filing-case put on the market, it may be that we shall soon find that our publications will be of much greater use because they can be found when they are especially needed.

RELATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND EXPERIMENT STATION LIBRARIES TO THE LIBRARY OF THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BY CLARIBEL R. BARNETT, *Librarian, Department of Agriculture, Washington*

In its general relations with the land grant colleges and experiment stations, the Federal Department of Agriculture has been represented by the Office of Experiment Stations, which, as a central agency established for their especial benefit, has aided them in a variety of ways and has sought to promote co-operation between them and the Department of Agriculture in their various undertakings. By the agricultural appropriation act for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1915, the name of the Office of Experiment Stations was changed to States Relations Service and its activities extended. This name indicates more clearly the functions of the office and is striking proof of the importance attached to co-operation between the states and the Federal government in the promotion of agriculture. Through the Association of the American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, and the Office of Experiment Stations, the various state experiment stations as well as the colleges with which they are connected, are brought together so as to form with the Federal Department of Agriculture a national system of agricultural education and research which is said to be the most complete in the world. There is, however, one link lacking in this system,—namely, the libraries, which have taken little part

in the work of co-operation among these institutions. That a closer relationship and greater co-operation between the library of the national Department of Agriculture and the libraries of the state agricultural colleges and experiment stations would be productive of good results will scarcely be denied. The establishment of the Agricultural Libraries Section of the American Library Association has been a step toward bringing about greater co-operation by affording an opportunity for the discussion of problems common to agricultural libraries.

In presenting to the section a paper on the subject of the relation of the libraries of the agricultural colleges and experiment stations to the library of the Federal Department of Agriculture, the object has been to explain the general policy of the library of the department in this connection, in the hope that by making better known its desire to be of service to other institutions, its opportunities for usefulness may be increased. As the national agricultural library connected with the national institution for agricultural research, the library of the Department of Agriculture should, it is believed, extend its services as far as possible to the investigators in agricultural science throughout the country. Land grant colleges and experi-

ment stations, although state institutions, are supported in part by funds given by the national government to the states to be used for their maintenance and they have certain definite relations to the different branches of the national government. Their relations with the Department of Agriculture are closer than with any other department of the Federal government and they can be said to have a just claim to share in the services of the library of the department.

Inter-Library Loans

Since few of the state agricultural colleges have collections entirely adequate to their needs, it has been felt that the library of the Department of Agriculture could be of special service by extending to them the use of its more complete collections. Although the library is a reference library and its first duty is unquestionably to the department, nevertheless it may be said to be its next important duty to serve the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, and as a part of that duty it has been its policy to lend its books to the scientists of these institutions as far as possible without interfering with the work of the department. The library has made no attempt to advertise this service, as it has seemed wiser for the present to let the service grow naturally and as a result of real needs, rather than to force its growth through undue stimulation. In spite of the fact that this service has not been advertised, the number of books which the library is lending outside of the department is growing rapidly from year to year. In 1906, which was the first year a record was kept of the number of loans to institutions outside of the city, 138 books were lent to 26 states and territories. In the fiscal year 1914, 896 books were lent. These went to institutions in 46 different states and territories.

With the development of the libraries of the state agricultural colleges and experiment stations, they will no doubt have collections much more adequate to their needs. Nevertheless, it is a question

whether their funds will ever be sufficient to make it advisable for them to purchase without regard to the collections already existing in the library of the Department of Agriculture and other libraries. Some co-operation on the part of agricultural libraries in the building up of their collections would therefore seem most desirable. Information as to whether certain books and periodicals are contained in the library of the department and whether they would probably be available for lending, will always be gladly furnished to libraries contemplating the purchase of these books.

Exchange of Duplicates

The Department of Agriculture has also attempted to serve the agricultural colleges and experiment stations through the free distribution to them of its duplicates. The library accumulates a large number of duplicates of government and state publications and also a large number of periodicals which are sent currently as gifts to the various bureaus and divisions of the department and which later find their way into the library. Many of these publications are of interest to other agricultural libraries, but the problem has been how to place them where they will be of most use at a minimum expense to the department in the labor of handling them. Some years ago the library printed lists of its duplicates for exchange, but the responses received did not seem to justify the continuation of the expense and work. Lack of room and assistants to devote to the care of the duplicates for a time forced the destruction of many publications of probable value to other libraries. A few years ago the library began again to distribute its duplicates to the agricultural colleges and experiment stations. Typewritten lists were sent out simultaneously to various agricultural colleges and they were requested to check the items of interest. On receipt of the requests it was found that several institutions requested the same publications. We attempted to treat all alike by sending about the same number

of publications to each institution. This method, however, had its disadvantages, as it involved a good deal of work on the part of the agricultural college libraries in checking up their files with the list and in return they probably received only a small part of the items requested. Therefore, during the past year we have been carrying out a different plan. We have from time to time made on slips a rough list of duplicates and have sent the slips to a few libraries which we knew wished especially to receive the duplicates. After one library has checked the list as to the items desired, we send the remaining slips to another library. By this method a library receives all the items selected, but it has the disadvantage of showing partiality to certain institutions. We have not, therefore, worked out any scheme which is in all respects satisfactory. We would be glad to have suggestions as to a plan which would be likely to be satisfactory to all the agricultural colleges and experiment stations and at the same time involve a minimum amount of work on the part of the department library.

Bibliographical Information Relating to Literature of Agriculture

The library has also attempted to serve other agricultural libraries by supplying bibliographical information connected with the literature of agriculture. The Department of Agriculture as a whole may be considered as a bureau of agricultural information as well as an institution for agricultural research. Each bureau and division of the department is called upon to answer requests for specialized information in its own particular field. The questions which the library has received in the past would seem to indicate that it is regarded as the national source of information regarding the literature of agriculture. In attempting to perform this service the library has been greatly aided by the co-operation of the scientists of the department and by its close relationship with the library of Congress.

A selected list of library accessions is being included in the new Departmental Circular, the publication of which was begun in May, 1915. Although the list does not contain more than a third of the accessions to the library and omits almost entirely the annual reports, proceedings, etc., it may be of some service to the libraries of the agricultural colleges and experiment stations. The list takes the place in part of the Monthly bulletin formerly published by the library.

The printing of cards for the publications of the department and the accessions to the library was begun by the library for the primary purpose of serving the agricultural colleges and experiment stations. The cards cataloging the publications of the department are distributed free by the Library of Congress to the state agricultural colleges and experiment stations at the expense of the department.

Organization of Agricultural Libraries

It has also been considered a legitimate part of the work of the library of the department to furnish assistance to the agricultural colleges and experiment stations in so far as possible, in the organization and reorganization of their libraries, including their cataloging and classification. Librarians from state agricultural colleges have on several occasions spent from one to three months in the library studying its methods and resources, and assistants from this library have in three or four instances been sent to state agricultural colleges to aid in the reorganization of their libraries. Some of our assistants have also been called away permanently to positions in the state agricultural colleges. It has been suggested that the library might be able to perform a valuable service if it could have on its staff someone trained in the work of organizing libraries and with a wide familiarity with agricultural literature and the problems of agricultural libraries. If this organizer could visit the various state agricultural college and experiment station libraries every year or two, it would probably do much to bring the agricultural libraries closer to-

gether and increase their efficiency by making generally available the combined experience of the various libraries. If the state agricultural colleges and experi-

ment stations cared for this service and made an urgent demand for it, it is not unlikely that the department would be willing to furnish it under certain conditions.

HOW SHALL WE INTEREST AND INDUCE OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO MORE GENERAL CULTURAL READING?

BY ELIZABETH FORREST, *Librarian, Montana State College*

In my earlier and more inexperienced days when I was just graduated from the library school, I used to plan almost revengefully in my chagrined surprise how some day I would revisit the school and tell them there that the methods I listened to so enthusiastically about educating the public would not work: that the public did not want to be educated. This reminds me of the account given by Miss Addams, in her "Twenty years at Hull-house," of the failure of the hygienic food kitchen that the settlement workers tried to establish in the neighborhood. One woman voiced the sentiment of the community by saying that the food was nutritious, but that she did not want to eat what was nutritious; she preferred to eat "what she'd ruther." After this little introduction you can readily understand how hesitatingly I began to prepare a paper on the present topic. I entirely abandoned at the start any idea of suggesting to others ways and methods of improving cultural reading, and decided to confine myself to investigating conditions and reporting on them, hoping that such a resumé might somewhat aid us all.

Accordingly, a questionnaire was sent to forty-two technical institutions of collegiate rank. The list of colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts endowed by Congress in the United States Bureau of Education report was used as a basis in selecting the libraries to be interrogated. The large university libraries were not questioned, since the problems of a well equipped library in an institution where the technical work is only one phase of activity are so different from those of

more limited colleges. In like manner the schools for colored students were not consulted. Work with representatives of a race recently in slavery must present far greater difficulties than our own. Only twenty-six libraries replied. The general tone of the replies revealed on the whole a feeling of discouragement among the librarians. Only four of them were really optimistic with regard to conditions, and eight frankly reported little success. The remainder were doubtful as to the results of their efforts or entirely failed to answer with regard to this matter. Only two librarians wrote that nothing was done to stimulate cultural reading among the library patrons. It was difficult to classify the replies, since it was quite evident that the librarians had used different standards in answering the questionnaire. A number replied that they were doing little to improve the reading and then went on to describe methods which others had felt to be adequate. Also varying opinions were advanced. One librarian thought it futile to make any effort, while another considered it almost unnecessary in view of the present excellent use of the library. It is only fair to state that the latter did report, nevertheless, attempts to interest readers.

There are many methods used to get better reading. The showing on special shelves of general collections of books and of collections on special topics, as well as displays of the new books are the commonest ways to attract readers. Almost as usual are special exhibitions of books to which members of the faculty are invited, book notices in the college paper, and